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GENEALOGICAL GLEANINGS OF THE WILSON, OR WILLSON'S, OF ULSTER.

BY THOMAS ALLEN GLENN.

Among those Scotch-Irish who emigrated from the Province of Ulster to Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and other American colonies, at various times prior to the War of the Revolution, were many bearing the surname of Wilson, or, as frequently written in Scotland and Ireland, Willson. The following abstracts of Ulster Wilson wills, may be of interest to descendants.

Diocese of Derry Wills.

Will of John Wilson of Strabane in Co. Tyrone, gentleman. Dated 20 Dec., 1620. No date of probate.

The testator desires to be buried in the Parish Church of Lechpatrick, and appoints his son Robert to be sole executor and overseer of his (testator's) "other children." He also names sons William Wilson and John Wilson, and provides for his wife Barbara Moore.[1] Witnesses: John Browne, James Coghrane, James Gibb, Robert Cadwalader, W. Cunningham.

Will of Claud Willson of the parish of Donagheady, Co. Tyrone. Dated 13 Dec., 1636. Proved 21 Dec., 1636, by Agnes, widow and relict, James Hamilton of Dowlette, gentleman, and John Hamilton of Moyagh, gentleman.

The testator desires to be buried in the Parish Church of Donagheady, and bequeaths all of his personal estate to his wife and children (names not given).

[1] At this time, and later, it was the custom in Scotland, Ulster, and Wales, for women to retain their maiden name after marriage.

Wife Agnes, James Hamilton of Dulette (*sic*), gentleman, and John Hamilton of Moyouhe (*sic*), gentleman, to be executors. Witnesses: Thomas Wilson, ——— Hardie.

Will of George Willson. No place named. Dated 31 May, 1640. Proved Dec., 1640, by Katherine Willson relict of the deceased.

The testator names children: John Willson, and Mary Willson. He also mentions his mother, Elizabeth McGee, brother James Willson, sister Margaret Willson, and wife Katherine, who is executrix. Witnesses: John Kilver, Susane Holding, Constans Killver (*sic*).

Will of James Willsone, of Londonderry, weaver. Dated 17 March, 1664. Proved 8 May, 1665, by Margaret, widow and relict of the deceased.

The testator mentions his wife (executrix), and son James Willsone. Witness: Thomas Brown.

Will of William Wilson of the parish of Bouevah, Co. of Londonderry. Dated 22 April, 1692. No date of probate.

The testator mentions his son-in-law James Boyle, husband of his daughter Elizabeth. Daughter Katherine Wilson, and grandchild Agnisse Boyle, daughter of the said James Boyle.

The testator mentions "the will of my son Robert late deceased."

Wife Jannett Wilson, executrix, and testator's friend Richard Griffith, Rector of Drumchose, to be overseer. Witnesses: Charles Sterling, Patrick ———.

Will of Thomas Wilson of Strabane, merchant. Dated 26 Dec., 1693. No date of probate.

The testator desires to be buried in the Churchyard of Strabane, and he bequeaths to his wife Agnes Wilson alias Stewart the house and land called Burnes tenement, for life, and then to testator's son John Wilson. The testator leaves bequests to his other sons, Thomas and Francis Wilson. Son John Wilson to

be "administrator," and testator's friends Mr. John Crawford and Mr. William Homes to be overseers. Witnesses: William Homes, John Crawford.

Will of Robart Wilson of Minemer in the parish of Maghera, barony of Loghlin, Co. Londonderry. Dated 28 Dec., 1714. Proved 12 July, 1715.

The testator mentions his son Hugh Wilson, and daughter Mary Wilson.

"I order that whatever can be made of the interest left to me by my father in the Co. of Antrim be managed and truly divided between my son and daughter."

The testator appoints his brother Hugh Speer, and friend Mr. William Montgomery, gentleman, executors. Witnesses: Nath. Paterson, Ann Speer.

Will of David Willson of Newtownlimavaddy. Dated 23 June, 1715. Proved 25 April, 1716.

The testator appoints his wife, Margret (*sic*) Willson, executrix, and mentions daughters Margret and Elizabeth Willson. Overseers: Mr. John Stirling, and John Alexander. Witnesses: Ro. McCausland, Tho. Blair.

Will of John Willson of Fyfin in the parish of Urny, Co. Donegal. Dated 6 April, 1706. Proved 23 April, 1724.

The testator desires to be interred in the Parish Church of Urny, and bequeaths the "interest of my part of the land of Fyfin unto my three full sisters that are unmarried equally to be divided." Witnesses: James Mayes, James Thomson.

Will of Patrick Wilson of Donaghmore. Dated 4 Feb., 1727–8. No date of probate.

The testator desires to be buried in the churchyard of Donaghmore. He mentions sons John Wilson, and Joshua Wilson; son-in-law James Cochran, and wife Cathrin Olivent. Executors: Andrew Willson, and Archibald White. Witnesses: Thomas Willson, John Willson.

Will of James Wilson of Stoancarlidagh in the parish of Drumragh, Co. Tyrone. Dated 20 April, 1741. Proved 2 March, 1742, by Robert Wilson, one of the witnesses.

The testator bequeaths to his eldest son, John Wilson, £20. Unto second son, David Wilson, "one moyetie or half of my farm;" unto each of his sons-in-law, viz. Hugh Wilson, James Anderson, John Young, Edward Young, John Hetheringtown, and William Christie, the sum of £3. due by bond; to "my youngest son Robert Wilson, and eldest son John, the other moyetie of my farm." Executors: John Christie of Mullaghbane, Co. Tyrone, and testator's second son, David Wilson. Witnesses: John Rodger, and Robt Wilson Junr.

Will of Archibald Willson of the Laugh. Dated 2 March, 1745–6. Proved by executors named, 5 April, 1746.

The testator desires to be buried in Donaghmore, and leaves bequests as follows:

To elder Brother Daniel, £15.; to brother John, £14.; to brother Thomas, £14.; to John Heris (Harris), a relative, £5.10.0.; to Jean Heris, £3.10.0.; to Nancy Heris, £2.10.0.; to Thomas Heris, £2.10.0.; to Samuel Heris, £1.2.0.; to John Anderson, £5.0.0.; to Margrat Anderson, £2.10.0.; to Martha Anderson, £2.10.0.; to Archibald Anderson, £3.10.0; to Rebeckah Anderson, £2.10.0. Executors: Archibald Whit (White), and Moses Lindsay. Witnesses: John Willson, and John Marshal.

Will of James Willson of Killymuch in the parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly, Co. Londonderry. Dated 27 March, 1745. Proved by executors named, 29 July, 1747.

The testator desires to be buried in the churchyard of Tamlaght O'Crilly. To "wife Margret the fifth part of all my goods and chattels, all the rest and res-

idue to my four children to be divided into four equal parts. If there is another child property to be divided into six parts, and a sixth part to each of my five children." Wife and children to "enjoy my house and farm" (which went to his heir). The testator mentions his son William, and appoints as executors, his brother, John Willson, and brother-in-law, William Hamilton. Witnesses: Hugh Hill, Edward Marks, and John McPeake.

Will of James Willson of Kern in the parish of Dunboe, Co. Londonderry. Dated 30 March, 1747. Proved by the oath of Andrew Walker, witness, and the execution committed to John Dunn and Thomas Boyd, sons-in-law of the deceased and next of heir, 27 July, 1747.

The testator desires to be decently buried at the discretion of his son John. All money owing, the testator bequeaths to his daughter Margrat Willson otherwise Boy (*sic*), "except what James Lewes is owing, that I allow to my daughter Mary, with what my son John Dunn is owing to me that I allow him to keep in his own hands for his part. Son John (Dunn) to be at the cost of funeral. Witnesses: Andrew Walker, and Joseph Wardon.

Will of Andrew Wilson Senior of Banagher. Dated 22 Nov., 1748. Proved by the oath of Andrew Wilson, a witness, and execution granted to Henry Wilson, the executor, 28 Nov., 1748.

The testator bequeaths his lands in the town of Deryviear to Henry Wilson, together with all houses and tenements thereunto appertaining, except the tract of land in possession of James Moore. Witnesses: William McClosky, Thomas Hason, and Andrew Wilson.

Diocese of Connor Wills.

Will of John Willson of Belley Lagon. Dated January, 1727. Proved by John Willson and John Allen, 5 March, 1728.

The testator bequeaths the lease of the farm on which he lives to his sons Robert and John Willson, and mentions his wife and "children." The farm in Belley Lagon to wife during life, and after her decease to testator's son John. Executors: Testator's wife, Andrew Willson, John Allen, and George Willson. Witnesses: James Steuart, John Morrons, and Thomas Willson.

Will of John Willson of Aghohill. Dated 5 March, 1738–9. Proved at Aghohill, 22 Jan., 1739.

The testator bequeaths to his wife Jean two parts of all stock, both of money, goods, chattels, and the house and land. "And also I leave the third part of the remaining third to my brother's son Robert, and the remainder of the first third part to be equally divided amongst my brother Samuel and his children, and my sister-in-law Elizabeth and her children, and also my brother Robert's daughter Margaret to run equal with the rest of my nephews in the remaining part of the first third." Witnesses: Robert McClure, Francis Hilles, and Andrew McClure.

Will of John Willson of the parish of Ballinderry. Dated 13 Feb., 1747–8. Proved 12 March, 1747–8.

The testator mentions his brothers, Isaac, Samuel, and Henry Willson; sisters, Mary McCoy, and Anne Erwin. Executors: Testator's father (name not given), and brother Samuel Wilson. Witnesses: Thomas Sefton, William Maxwell, and James Cook.

Will of John Willson of Largy in the parish of Killead, Co. Antrim, farmer. Dated 1 June, 1737. Proved by Andrew Willson, one of the executors, 19 November, 1751.

The testator bequeaths to his sons John and Andrew all of his freehold land in Largy, share and share alike. He mentions son Samuel, son-in-law Alexander Young, daughter Esther Willson alias Coaplin, and daughter Margaret Willson alias Bell. Executors: Testator's

sons, John and Andrew Willson. Witnesses: Joseph Ewen, Langford Shoen, and Fran. Shoen.

Will of Hugh Willson of Killade. Dated 8 March, 1750–1. Proved by oath of Isabel Wilson, widow of said deceased, 24 Oct., 1751.

The testator mentions his son Hugh Willson, wife, and "son-in-law." Witnesses: George Grice, and Will. Brayen.

Bond. Dated 24 Oct., 1751. Isabell Willson, and Hugh Willson, both of the parish of Killade, and John Cumberland of Lisburn, all in Co. Antrim. £40. For good admon. by said Isabell widow and relict of Hugh Willson of Killade, deceased, of estate of her said husband. Witness: Henry Marmion, Not^y Pub.

Prerogative Wills.

Will of Sir John Wilson of Wilson's Forte, Co. Donegal, Knt. and Bart. Dated 13 April, 1636. Codicil 15 April, 1636.

The testator desires to be buried in the Church of Raphoe, and he bequeaths the Manor of Wilson's Forte, and the lands of Killcaddan which he holds on lease from the Lord Bishop of Derry, to his (testator's) father, William Wilson, Esq., for life, and after his decease to testator's brother Andrew Wilson; provided the said William and Andrew pay unto testator's only daughter Anne Wilson her yearly maintenance for twelve years. If said Andrew die without issue male, before said Anne, then said estate to revert to the said Anne Wilson, subject to a jointure to the widow of Andrew.

In case both the said Andrew Wilson and Anne Wilson die without issue then said estate to revert to testators nephew Andrew Hamilton, and for want of issue, then to the heirs male of John Hamilton, brother of Andrew, then to the heirs male of Francis Hamilton, another brother of Andrew, then to the heirs

male of Francis Hassett, son of Francis Hassett of Rosbegg, Co. Fermanagh, then to testator's general heirs forever.

The testator mentions his niece Anna Hamilton, sister of Andrew, John, and Francis, and his (testator's) sister, Rebecca Wilson. Executors: Testator's father, William Wilson, Esq., and . . . . Nicholas Loftus of Dublin. Testator's father-in-law, Sir Thomas Butler, Knt., to be supervisor. Witnesses: Charles Atkinson, Thomas Pamantur, Nicholas Pamantur, John Pitts, Donatus O'Syell, and John Vaughan.

Codicil by which the testator leaves certain bequests viz.: to Neale Donnell, "son unto my brother (*sic*) Colvagh Donnell" £5; to Mary Donnell, "daughter unto my said brother-in-law Colvagh Donnell, £30."

Will of John Wilson late clerk of the Forge of Inisrush, Co. Londonderry, gentleman. Dated at Antrim, 13 June, 1696. Proved by Richard Wilson brother of said deceased, 18 July, 1696.

The testator bequeaths to his eldest brother, Richard Wilson all of his right title and interest in the fourth part of the forge of Inisrush, Co. Derry, he paying to testator's youngest brother David Wilson, £200. To said brother Richard testator's fourth share of a Decree of £160. recovered against Randle, Earl of Antrim, some time before the late war at the suit of John Wilson late of Ballow and the testator, as executors of Robert Wilson late of Ballow, who bequeathed the said sum of £160 as a legacy to testator and his (testator's) three brothers, James, Richard, and David, to be equally divided. The testator mentions his sister, Sara, wife of Mr. James Hartson. Testator's brother Richard to be sole executor. Witnesses: Ja. Shonnan, and Jonathan Hammond.

Will of John Wilson of Strabane in the parish of Camus, Co. Tyrone, merchant. Dated 16 June, 1735.

Proved by Anne Wilson widow and relict, saving the rights of Patrick and Thomas Wilson, sons of decd.

The testator desires to be buried in the churchyard of Strabane, and mentions wife Ann, sons Patrick, Thomas, and John Wilson; daughters Martha, Ann, wife of Richard Hughes, and Isabella Wilson. Nieces, Sally, daughter of Richard Hughes, and Elizabeth Willson (*sic*) deceased. Executors: Testator's wife, and sons Patrick and Thomas. Overseers: George Gladstanes, Esq. of Lisburn in the parish of Clogher, Rev. Victor Ferguson, and Mr. Hugh Brown of Strabane, merchant. Witnesses: Victor Ferguson, Patr. Caldwell, and John Ferguson.

Will of John Wilson, Rector of Kilcar, Co. Donegal, Clk. Dated 24 Feb., 1740–1. Proved 16 Augt., 1743, by Isabella Wilson, widow and relict of decd., saving the right of the other executors.

The testator bequeaths unto his wife one third part of his personal estate "above the £200 I am obliged to leave her by marriage settlement. The other two thirds for use "of my surviving children." All other effects to be divided amongst my children, Thomas, John, Nicholas, Sarah, and Hannah. Executors: Testator's wife, and Rev. John Robertson of Donegal. Witnesses: Ed. Scanlan, Eliz. Walter, and Nich. Dogherty.

Will of John Willson, mariner on board His Majesty's Ship the *Lyme,* now lying at Spithead. Dated 1 Nov., 1743. Proved 27 May, 1748.

The testator bequeaths all of his estate to his mother Margaret Willson of the parish of St. Catherine's, Dublin, and he appoints her sole executrix. Witnesses: Chas. Calford, and Peter Yearworth.

Letter of testator to his mother in which he mentions his brother [? in law] Thos Hooks, sisters Mary and Elizabeth, and uncle Johnston.[2]

[2] I include this will because it relates to an Ulster family, although resident in Dublin.